
Statement

European Commission conditions for EssilorLuxottica acquisition of GrandVision clearance not far reaching enough

March 2021

The European Council of Optometry and Optics (ECOO) welcomes the conditions imposed by the European Commission in the EssilorLuxottica case for Belgium, the Netherlands and Italy but believes that they are not far reaching enough and should have covered all countries with similar market environments.

ECOO represents opticians and optometrists throughout Europe, a sector which is largely made up of SMEs with independent shops and practices. The vertical integration of the company through the acquisition of GrandVision will have a direct impact on these smaller players in the field.

Commenting on the Commission's conditions, Peter Gumpelmayer, Past President and Treasurer of ECOO, said:

"We regret to see that the conditions are limited to only three countries because the market power of these players is also significant in other European countries, including in my own country Austria. It is important that there should be sufficient scope for players of all sizes to operate in this sector, ensuring choice and quality for customers or patients. We hope that the outcome of this case will still allow for a balanced and competitive market place."

Contact:

European Council of Optometry and Optics (ECOO)
Rond Point Schuman 6, Box 5
1040 Brussels, Belgium
Tel : +32 474 07 87 09
E-mail: secretariat@ecoo.info

About ECOO:

The European Council of Optometry and Optics (ECOO) is the European organisation which represents the interests of over 150.000 optometrists and opticians from 25 countries. It aims to promote eye health to the public across borders and to harmonise clinical and educational standards of optometric and optical practice throughout Europe.